

Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes
Comfort Suites of Helena
January 22-23, 2015

Members in Attendance: Doug Dellwo, Tessie Rose Bailey, Dave Marzolf, Harold Olson, Courtney Bell, Tristan Scott, Peter Halloran, Sindie Kennedy, Christine Whitlatch, Kellie Ann Hicks, Dan Laughlin, Theresa Becker, Marvin Williams

Excused Members: Laura Straus, Marvin Williams (Friday), Wendy Studt, Theresa Becker (Thursday), Barbara Varnum

Non-Members in Attendance: Dick Trerise, Frank Podobnik, Susan Bailey-Anderson, Erin Butts, Danni McCarthy, Anne Rainey, Shelley Dempsey (Prickly Pear Coop), Marlene Wallis

Thursday, January 22, 2015

Chairperson Doug Dellwo called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The Panel members, OPI staff and visitors introduced themselves.

Following review of the Proposed Agenda, Tessie Bailey moved to accept the Proposed Agenda, Sindie Kennedy seconded the motion and the motion passed. The Proposed Agenda was accepted as written.

The Panel reviewed the minutes of the September 25-26, 2014, meeting. Tessie Bailey moved to accept the minutes, Dave Marzolf seconded the motion and the motion passed. The minutes of the September 25-26, 2014, meeting were approved as written.

Division Report

Kim York has been hired as a case manager for the Aspire Program. Debra Cockrell-Gilsoul is the other case manager for the Aspire Program.

Linda Almas, Administrative Assistant, retired as of the end of December. Frank noted that the division is recruiting for a replacement.

The division is preparing an application to hire an MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support) position.

Frank said that the IDEA budget has not been discussed at the federal level. The House and Senate are stalled with ESEA reauthorization. He noted that the education funding is complex. As president of NASDSE (National Association of State Directors of Special Education), Frank works closely with the Department of Education.

Frank informed the Panel that the OPI is requesting the legislature increase Special Education funds over the next biennium; that the state make available at least the same amount of funds for Maintenance of Effort (MOE). Also discussed were funding for 19-year-olds, funding includes up to 21 years for the Deaf and Blind and state prison.

Annual Performance Report (APR) to the State Performance Plan (SPP)

Dick Trerise reviewed with the Panel the “Part B State Performance Plan (SPP) and Annual Performance Report (APR)” for FFY 2013.

Following the review, Dave Marzolf moved to have the Chairperson sign a letter of support on behalf of the Panel for the Annual Performance Report for FFY 2013. Tessie Bailey seconded the motion and the motion passed. The Panel chair, Doug Dellwo, will sign a letter of support on behalf of the Panel for the Annual Performance Report for FFY 2013.

Dick presented an overview of the indicators (minus indicator 17). Dick discussed each of the indicators with the Panel. The Panel will be involved with setting targets by a telephone conference call the end of March.

The indicators are listed on Dick’s handout. The indicator list is included with these minutes.

Professional Development

Susan Bailey-Anderson updated the Panel regarding the Professional Development Unit. The Unit includes the Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD), Montana Behavioral Initiative (MBI), State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG), Response to Intervention (RTI), plus several programs.

Susan informed the Panel that the week of February 2-6, 2015, has been proclaimed as Paraprofessional Recognition Week. The Montana Behavioral Initiative (MBI) Summer Institute will celebrate MBI’s 20 Years. The Institute is in Bozeman, June 15-19, 2015. She invited the Panel members to the Institute. If a Panel member is interested in attending, please e-mail Susan at sbanderson@mt.gov and copy Marlene Wallis at mwallis@mt.gov. Highlights of the Institute include: Sustaining MBI; Low Prep, High Impact Intervention Strategies for Struggling Students; Power of Believing in Students; Tall Cop Says Stop; College and Career Standards; plus many other strands. The MBI Youth Days will take place in October, November and December, throughout areas in Montana. Students are invited by their high schools to attend as a team and chaperones are included.

Friday, January 23, 2015

Chairperson Doug Dellwo called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Call for Public Comments

Chairperson Doug Dellwo asked for public comments. There were no public comments.

Announcements

A letter of support was requested from the Panel for the Personnel Development Grant. Dan Laughlin moved to provide a letter of support for the Personnel Development Grant, Peter Halloran seconded the motion and the motion passed.

School Mental Health Up-date

Erin Butts discussed bullying and suicide in Montana. She said that Montana has the highest rate of bullying on school grounds. Montana's suicide rate is also high.

Erin distributed a flyer for an interactive workshop, "Strategies for Educating the Traumatized Child and Youth." The workshop is conducted by Stacy G. York who is a Licensed Clinical Social worker who focuses on helping families build stronger relationships and communicate effectively. The workshop is scheduled for February 7, 2015, at the Montana Tech University.

Erin presented a video of Teacher of the Year, Craig Beals "Can Technology Humanize us?" The video shows that "someone cares."

Conference call with OSEP State Contact

Frank Podobnik introduced Jocelyn Logan-Friend, Montana's OSEP state contact via a conference call.

Jocelyn informed the Panel members that they are appreciated for their contributions to the Panel and the Office of Public Instruction. Because of the overlapping roles that Montana's Panel has, there is lots of experience within the membership. She told the Panel that a great perspective to have is to keep in mind that their role is broader than only Special Education teachers and students with disabilities. She also noted that she has close contact with Frank Podobnik and Dick Trerise.

Jocelyn said that she has read the ESEA draft bill and it affords the opportunity to be creative. It is a very broad bill with lots of flexibility.

Frank told Jocelyn that the Panel members went through the APR targets line by line and that the Panel is very involved.

Jocelyn said she appreciated being invited to the call and enjoyed the informal conversations with the Panel members.

Federal Guidance Up-Date

Dick Trerise shared several US Department of Education letters with the Panel. The letters included items such as: Clarification on the long-standing requirement under the IDEA to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to students with disabilities so that they can be involved in, and make progress in, the general education curriculum; the educational needs of students with disabilities who are in correctional facilities; responsibility of public schools to ensure that communication with students with hearing, vision, or speech disabilities is as effective as communication with all other students; guidance regarding the inclusion of English Learners (ELs) with disabilities in English language proficiency (ELP) assessments; ensuring a high-quality education for highly mobile children; equitable participation of parentally placed private school students with disabilities in programs assisted or carried out under Part B of the IDEA.

Additional Items

Preview of May Meeting

The May meeting is the combined Advisory Panel and CSPD meeting.

Meeting Dates

May 7-8, 2015—Joint Meeting with CSPD

June 25, 2015—One-day Meeting

September 17-18, 2015—Orientation Meeting

Agenda Items

Correctional Services

Number receiving education in jail

Adjourn

Dave Marzolf moved to adjourn the meeting, Tessie Bailey seconded the motion and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.